

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence or a complementary nucleotide sequence corresponding to a gene or derivative of said gene or a region of said gene facilitating its expression, wherein said gene is specifically expressed in generative cells and sperm cells of a plant but wherein said gene does not encode a histone protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, and an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to any one of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4 comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% identity to any one of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:7, and a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to any one of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:7 under low stringency conditions at 42°C.

Please add the following claim:

21. The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the plant is a lily or a plant related to lily.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 17, 2001, claims 1-5 are under consideration. Claims 6-20 are withdrawn from consideration as directed to non-elected inventions. The title of the invention is objected to as allegedly not descriptive. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.